DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 682 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 13th June, 1994 and state:

(a) whether Government have benefited from the move of exculsion of income-tax payers from the purview of Public Distribution System (PDS):

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor,

(c) whether Government propose to extend this facility to some other States and Union Territories; and

(d) if so, the deails thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The Central Government has not taken any decision to exclude Income Tax payers from the purview of Public Distribution System (PDS) The recommendation of the Committee of Ministers on the National Policy on PDS, to exclude certain relatively better off categories of consumers from the supply of subsidised foodgrains through the PDS was made for ensuring the supply of larger and more meaningful quantities of PDS foodgrains to the needy and deserving sections of the society. The recommendation was not made for achieving any reduction in the level of food subsidy expenditure.

(c) and (d) Operational responsibility for implementation of the Public Distribution System including decisions on eligibility criteria, is that of the State Government and UT Administrations. State Governments and UT Administrations can decide on their own regarding excluding of Income Tax payers from the supply of subsidised foodgrains and other PDS commodities.

Consumer consciousness amongst people

1755. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take some measures to generate more consumer consciousness amongst the people and make them to resist more to misleading claims in advertisments;

(b) if so, the details therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to amend the Drugs and Magic Remedies Act, 1954 to achieve the above mentioned objectives;

(d) whether Government also propose to utilise electronic media to stir up consciousness about citizens' rights and consumer protection requirements:

(e) if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether Government also propose to involve the States and Union Territories in this regard; and

(g) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The Government has taken a number of measures to increase consumer consciousness amongst people. Such measures include preparation of audio visual material, printed literature in the form of booklets, brochures, posters, postcard size material etc. in the field of consumer protection. It is also publishing a quarterly journal "Upabhokta Jagaran" which disseminates useful information to the consumers. The printed material is made available to consumer organisations free of cost.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Government already utilising electronic media to generate consciousness amongst the citizens. The Ministry is sponsoring a weekly programme 'Apne Adhikar" on all the commercial brodcasting stations of AIR. The Doordarshan and its kendras are also bringing out such programmes from time to time.

(f) and (g) The Ministry has written to the State Government and Union Territories to undertake various programmes to generate consumer awareness. The Ministry is also given financial assistaace to them for this purpose.

Migrant J&K Government employees deprived of ration

1756. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:
SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the migrant Government employees living in Jammu division have been deprived of their right to get their ration through the Public Distribution System inspite of the fact that these employees are permanent ration card holders of Kashmir division; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPLLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The Central Government has not received any such report.

(b) Does not arise.

Reduction in sugar quota

1757. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the shortage of sugar and high prices, the Fair-Price Shops throughout the country were not supplied full quota of sugar during the month of May and June 1994;

(b) if so, what was the total reduction of quota to the State Governments from May, 1994 onwards;

(c) which are the States whose sugar quota was reduced;

(d) to what extent the State Governments have opposed the cut in the sugar quota; and

(e) what is the position of Madhya Pradesh in regard to the supply of the sugar quota for distribution in the F.P.S.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) As 5 per cent *adhoc* increase in levy sugar allocations for the PDS was made to all States and UT Administrations w.e.f. August, 1991. Due to constraints in the availability of sugar the 5 per cent *adhoc* increase in the allocations has been withdrown for all States and UTs, w.e.f. April, 1994. The quota for individual fair price shops is, however, decided by the State Governments and UT Administrations.

(d) Many State Governments have sought restoration of the 5 per cent *adhoc* increase in the levy sugar allocations.

(e) Madhya Pradesh is presently being given a monthly levy sugar allocation of 25,031 MTs. The Madhya Pradesh Government has also been given a festival quota of levy sugar of 7,536 MTs per annum for distribution through the Public Distribution System.

Amendment in Edible Oil, Seed and Oil Order, 1977

1758. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether considering the plea of the corporate and cooperative bodies for